



COMMANDER, FOURTEENTH COAST GUARD DISTRICT
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96850-4982

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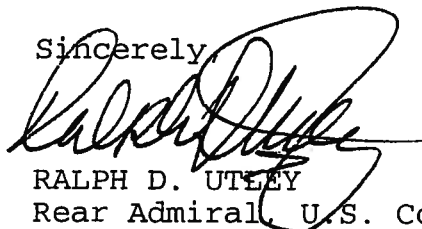
Dear Mrs. Mink,

This responds to your letter of February 22, 2002 regarding 'Ilio Point on the northwestern tip of the island of Moloka'i. My records indicate that this 261 acre parcel was used as an aerial firing range by Department of Defense, which ceased operation in about 1949. Subsequently, it was transferred to the Coast Guard to operate a Loran Station on a small portion of the parcel. This station transmitted electronic positioning information for use by vessels engaged in navigation and was closed in January 1966. On August 15, 1968, the General Services Administration (GSA), on behalf of the United States of America, transferred the entire 261 acre parcel, including the former Loran site and firing range, via Quitclaim Deed to the State of Hawaii in consideration for the sum of \$45,000.00.

Our records indicate that various degrees of clean-up were conducted at different times over the entire parcel, including the former Loran site, prior to the property's sale to the State. However, it is apparent that the condition of the property was discussed at the time of transfer, as the deed expressly describes the condition of the property as a former firing range subject to contamination by unexploded ordnance. Furthermore, as an express term of the transfer, the State agreed to decontaminate the property and to prohibit public use in the interim. The State also agreed to hold harmless the United States against all liability or claims arising from the property.

I hope that this satisfactorily answers any questions you may have regarding the condition of the property when it was transferred to the State. Please feel free to contact me should you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,



RALPH D. UTEY
Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard

The Honorable Patsy T. Mink
Member, United States House of Representatives
Prince Kuhio Federal Building #5-104
300 Ala Moana Blvd
Honolulu, HI 96850-4974

BENJAMIN J. CAYETANO
GOVERNOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 224
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
NATURAL AREA RESERVES SYSTEM COMMISSION

November 8, 2001

Representative Patsy Mink
2135 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-4906

Dear Representative Mink,

The Natural Area Reserves System Commission of the State of Hawaii needs your help in protecting a small part of our natural heritage on the island of Moloka'i. 'Ilio Point, on the Northwestern tip of the island, is a rare example of native Hawaiian coastal ecosystem that is being severely browsed by wild axis deer. A relatively short length of deer-proof fence would protect a portion of this site of 261 acres from further degradation. Well-planned restoration work could then make 'Ilio a source of great pride for the Moloka'i people. 'Ilio Point has a history of use as a military target range, and there is concern that there may be unexploded ordnance where we would like to see a fence line placed. However, one of our commissioners, Mr. Reginald David believes the U.S. Coast Guard had the area cleared of ordnance, prior to turning it over to the State of Hawaii Land Division. We do not have access to any records certifying that an unexploded ordnance sweep was conducted prior to the transfer of the lands back to the State of Hawai'i, but we assume the U.S. Coast Guard should have such records. On our behalf, would you be willing to contact the Commander of the Coast Guard in Hawai'i to ask that an officer of the USCG contact Mr. David to provide us such information? Reggie can be reached at: Reginald David, P.O. Box 1371, Kailua-Kona HI 96745, phone (808) 329-9141. The Tax Map Key of the State parcel at 'Ilio Point is: Zone 5, Section 1, Plat 2, Parcel 6 (TMK 5-1-2-6).

Without this information on military ordnance, we are unable to use funds that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has offered to initiate this project. Additionally, Mr. Bob Hobdy, State District Forester in Maui County, is willing to help get 'Ilio Point fenced, but he is naturally reluctant to put anyone at risk of injury if the proposed fence corridor has never been cleared of unexploded ordnance.

The NARS Commission is well aware that the people of Moloka'i like to be told well in advance of any proposed land use changes on their island. We fully intend to have a community meeting there to explain the proposed fence line and its purpose, once we find that it is feasible to build. The fence would be equipped with gates to allow access to the shoreline on foot, although Moloka'i Ranch controls all access roads into the general area. It is not our intention to exclude fishermen from the point.

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ʻIlio Point is one of the last relatively intact examples in the state of a biologically diverse community of native strand plants on consolidated dunes. The site is also known for its deposits of fossil bird bones and land snails that have helped scientists appreciate the richness of the original fauna of Hawaiʻi. If you can help us keep the deer out of this tiny part of Molokaʻi, we will have begun to protect it for future generations of Molokaʻi people to experience as part of their natural Hawaiian heritage.

Aloha,

Linda W. Pratt
Chair, Natural Area Reserves System Commission

Patrick Conant
Commissioner, Natural Area Reserves System Commission

cc: Mrs. Betsy Harrison Gagné, Executive Secretary, NARS Commission
Mr. Reginald David, Commissioner, Natural Area Reserves System Commission